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# CUPCAKES & CONVERSATION WITH DUSTY BUTTON, ARTIST, BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

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# CUPCAKES & CONVERSATION WITH DUSTY BUTTON, ARTIST, BIRMINGHAM ROYAL BALLET

Birmingham Royal Ballet are performing in London from 10th November 2009 and Button can be seen in *The Centre and its Opposite*, part of the *Quantum Leaps* triple bill.



Dusty Button by Andy Ross

**What motivates you at 8am on a Monday morning?**

To be honest, most mornings at 8am I'm still in bed! Sometimes it takes me a while to get motivated but coffee is always a start!

**What are you looking forward to dancing this season?**

I was really looking forward to starting *The Centre and its Opposite* this season, I love that. I'm such a Christmassy girl, I always look forward to *Nutcracker*! I can't wait!

**Who would you most like to dance with?**

There are so many people I'd love to dance with for so many different reasons but I think I would be beside myself if I got the chance to dance with Sylvie Guillem. I'm not even sure I would dance if I was on stage with her, I would probably just end up watching!

**How do you prepare your pointe shoes?**

I don't do much really. I usually just sew them and break them in a bit. Nothing out of the ordinary.





Dusty Button and Aaron Robison in *The Centre and its Opposite*



Photo: Bill Cooper

**What is your daily routine at the moment?**

At the moment I usually wake up with enough time for a good warm-up before class and maybe a work out in the middle of the day. Depending on our work load my routine varies.

**You can ask six famous people to dinner – who would you invite?**

That is super hard but now I think it would have to be: Beyonce, Liza Minnelli, Chita Rivera, Michael Bubl , Kate Hudson and Matthew McConaughey.

**What would surprise people about you?**

I don't know if surprise is the right word but a lot of people don't know that I'm a Christian. But I am   

**Who inspired you to dance?**

I don't really have one person who inspired me to dance but I did grow up watching all the classic dance movies. My favourite film was *White Christmas* with Vera Ellen, Danny Kaye and Bing Crosby. I remember watching a dance scene with Vera Ellen and thinking she was brilliant in her rhinestoned heels! I watch it every Christmas!

**How would someone else describe you?**

Loud! Haha! Um I don't know really, I guess I'm pretty outgoing and up for a challenge, I love smiling so anything that goes with that!



Dusty Button and Aaron Robison in *The Centre and its Opposite*

Photo: Bill Cooper

**What is your best piece of advice?**

In any situation try and find the positive and just don't be afraid to fight for what you want! You always have more willpower than you think 💎💎

**Which role has tested you the most and how?**

I think one of the hardest things I've done in the company is *Serenade*. I absolutely loved dancing it but sometimes the music was so inspiring it was hard not to go off in my own world and keep dancing! With a piece like *Serenade*, it only looks great if everyone is in perfect lines and musically together. I think that was very hard but a lovely piece and great inspiration around me!

**What is the funniest thing that's ever happened to you?**

Oh my gosh, funny things happen to me on and off stage all the time! I think one of the funniest things that has ever happened to me was when I was about 13 years old. I was in a singing/drama class at school in South Carolina and we were putting on a production of *A Christmas Carol*. There weren't very many boys in our class and I had been put in the Alto group for singing. So after the auditions my teacher came up to me and asked if I would mind playing Scrooge in the play! Of course without thinking, I said, 'Yes!' Scrooge was the star! But then I realized Scrooge was a grumpy old man. Nevertheless, Christmas came around and there I was, blonde and perky.. playing Scrooge!

**If you designed your own stage costume, what would you create?**

That's really hard. I think I've already had the costume I would've designed! I had an amazing costume that my mom made when I was about 14. I did a solo to the song 'Roxie' from the musical *Chicago*. It was a lycra short fitted dress with the back out and silver beads at the bottom. I remember counting something over 6,000 rhinestones on it!! It was incredible. I'd dance in that any day!

**What are you most proud of?**

Wow! That's a hard one. I think there are a few. I am so proud to have the parents I have, I couldn't ask for better! The friendships I've created since joining Birmingham Royal Ballet. And maybe most importantly I'm proud of my faith.

**Who would play you in the film of your life?**

I would love Kate Hudson to play me in a film! That would be brilliant!

**What is your favourite quote?**

"If you wanna limit yourself that's fine, but don't let other people do it for you."

**Do you have a 'signature step' – one that comes naturally to you?**

Hm. I don't know, I guess kicking my legs is something I do a lot! But don't we all!

**A phrase I use far too often is...?**

Before I start a sentence it usually begins with, 'I'm not gonna lie'. (Which is probably a good thing!)

**What's been your best on-stage moment so far?**

When I was 16 I performed at a gala in New York City. I was completely overwhelmed on stage and while I was finishing my solo I started crying! It is the best memory and I had never been so happy!

**Do you have a secret skill which no-one knows about?**

I'm not sure it's a secret but I do sing and still taking lessons now! I love it and hopefully one day I'll put it to good use!



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